

It has been 124 years since this school first opened its doors to this community but many values remain the same. The people were hard working, family oriented and aware of the importance of education. This school brought hope for a better way of life. It opened doors within the minds of the young people and inspired future leaders. Today, the school is once again servicing the needs of the community. Children who visit leave with a sense of the past and a feeling of pride and belonging in their community.

I commend the members of the East Detroit Historical Society for their role in preserving this treasure. The Halfway Schoolhouse will be formally recognized as a Michigan historic site with the dedication of this marker. The citizens of Eastpointe should feel pride in knowing that they have reclaimed something precious that will now be a living memorial.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LARRY MATHIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry L. Mathis, the president and chief executive officer of Methodist Health Care System in Houston, TX, in my district. Mr. Mathis has faithfully served the Houston area as the head of one of our Nation's leading nonprofit health care organizations for more than 25 years.

Later this year, Mr. Mathis will be retiring from Methodist Health Care System. Mr. Mathis began his career at Methodist Hospital in 1971 as an administrative resident. He was quickly promoted and was appointed president and chief executive officer of the hospital in 1983. During his leadership, Methodist grew from a single-site hospital in the Texas Medical Center to its emerging presence today as a community-based health care system. Methodist is now a leading provider of state-of-the-art medical care in the competitive managed care market in Houston. The Methodist Health Care System includes the Methodist Hospital, Diagnostic Center Hospital, San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, an international network of affiliated hospitals, a managed care organization, a health maintenance organization, home health services, skilled nursing, primary, and secondary physician groups, community health care centers, and hospice services.

During Mr. Mathis' tenure, the Methodist Hospital won the Commitment to Quality Award, an important award for hospital quality, and was named one of America's Best Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Methodist was also included in the 1993 edition of "The 100 Best Companies To Work for in America" and in the 1995 edition of the "Best Hospitals in America." Mr. Mathis was also named as one of the five best managers in nonprofit health services in Business Week.

Mr. Mathis has been recognized by his peers as an expert in health care policy. He is chairman-elect of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a professional society of 30,000 members. He has served as chairman of the board of the American Hospital Association, the Texas Hospital Association, and

the Greater Houston Council. In addition, Mr. Mathis served as a member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Quality Task Force of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

As Methodist Hospital searches for a replacement, Mr. Mathis will continue to serve as president and CEO of Methodist Health Care System. After this retirement, Mr. Mathis will continue to consult and work with Methodist Hospital on selected projects and programs. I applaud the dedicated leadership and hard work that Mr. Mathis has given to the Houston area and wish him the very best in his new career. Thank you, Mr. Mathis, for your service to the patients, the employees, and your community at the Methodist Health Care System. Your presence as a health care visionary will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLEVELAND

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is great honor for me to introduce a true American hero, Benjamin Franklin Cleveland. Mr. Cleveland, a resident of Johnsbury, NY, will soon celebrate his 100th birthday. I am proud to call this gentleman one of my constituents.

Mr. Cleveland is the only living veteran of the First World War residing in Johnsbury. I would like to offer my heartfelt appreciation for his service to the Nation. In recognition of Mr. Cleveland's 100th birthday, the town of Johnsbury, a small town in the 22d Congressional District, is throwing a parade in his honor this Saturday, September 28. I am thrilled that Johnsbury is honoring Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, serving your country is the ultimate sacrifice. It takes courage, dedication, perseverance, and above all, love of country. Mr. Cleveland has fought to preserve the freedoms many Americans, unfortunately, take for granted. You deserve the respect and admiration of all Americans.

The United States must look awfully different to Mr. Cleveland than it did in the year of his birth, 1896. In his lifetime, he has seen the introduction of air travel, the automobile, radio and television, nighttime baseball, and many other advances that have forever altered the American landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the country is different, but not necessarily better in all aspects. We have much to learn from members of Mr. Cleveland's esteemed generation. The country can draw on the wisdom he obtained in his 10 decades of life in the United States. He has a great deal to offer our Nation. I sincerely hope our youngsters can display the same virtues that Mr. Cleveland has amply demonstrated: duty, honor, sacrifice, and love of God and Country.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Cleveland on behalf of the U.S. Congress for your military service. I hope he has a wonderful birthday on October 14, 1996 and pray that he has many more years in beautiful upstate New York.

Living 100 years is a true milestone—Mr. Cleveland has great reason to feel proud of his accomplishment.

God Bless You, Mr. Cleveland. You are in our prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my vote on the Immigration and Nationality Act conference report yesterday. While my vote was recorded as "aye", it was my intention to vote "no", as I still oppose this legislation. My position on the issue of immigration is long standing and a matter of public record. I would thus like the RECORD to accurately reflect my position on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the past and present men and women of the Deale Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. This October, they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of service to the citizens of Deale, MD.

Prior to the fire company's inception in 1946, the citizens of Deale relied upon surrounding communities to provide their fire protection. As the population grew, following World War II, it became apparent that Deale could no longer rely entirely on other communities and it needed its own fire department. In October 1946, a small group of community leaders started the Deale Volunteer Fire Department. They were Tilghman Franklin, Gordon Phipps, Oregon Nutwell, Ray Clark, Sterling Knopp, Maurice Whittington, and Joseph Adcock.

As with most volunteer fire companies they started off small. They didn't have much money and hadn't been in the community long enough to establish a very large volunteer base. However, what they lacked in resources they more than made up in hard work. Their first fire engine was purchased second hand from the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department and they used a local businessman's garage as a firehouse. The first few years of the department were difficult because the department had to be entirely self-sufficient. They raised the necessary funds to purchase all the equipment and start construction on a proper firehouse by hosting oyster roasts, game parties, and collecting donations from the community.

In 1951, the fire department started receiving tax funds from Anne Arundel County. This steady revenue, supplemented by their fund-raising activities, allowed the department to complete the second stage of the firehouse construction which began in 1948. Additionally it allowed them to hire Junior Windsor and James "Tutti" Revell to be the first full-time professional firefighters for the department.